

THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.



“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

Champion Community Garden



Champion Garden Means

Community Reinvestment

- Generous financial gifts from the City of Columbus and Scotts Miracle-Gro Company provided resources for site improvements, including materials for seven raised beds, gardening tools and supplies, and a library

Food Production

- During our first growing season (Mar – Nov 2013), we produced and distributed 50 lbs. of vegetables (tomatoes, green bell peppers, egg plant, green beans, carrots, and greens) to neighborhood residents
- During our second growing season (Mar-Nov 2014), we plan to grow even more with the addition of six raised beds

Learning

- Gardening, food systems, and food preparation
- The Little Free Library Literacy Initiative

Partnership

- Community Properties Impact Corporation acted as fiscal sponsor and encouraged volunteerism
- Greater Columbus Growing Coalition facilitated plant donations from Strader’s Garden Center. They also provided support, knowledge, and community.
- Four Seasons City Farms is another urban agriculture group in OTE. They were a valuable source of knowledge and solidarity.
- Bill Dawson, Growing to Green, Franklin Park Conservatory, gave limitless knowledge, support, and enthusiasm.

Social Justice

- All neighborhood and community residents are welcome, regardless of race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin
- In addition to books, our Little Free Library is stocked with worker-friendly newspapers and other critical literature



Gardening Means

- Physical Activity
- Recreation and Socialization
- Nurturing
- Solitude
- Fulfillment



“It is so much nicer having a garden there. When nobody’s there, it’s a bad place.”
“I moved next door because of the garden.”



Rob Bennett
College of
Social Work

